Thoothukudi-Colombo ferry services

814. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to proceed with the case of re-introduction of the Thoothukudi-Colombo ferry services disregarding the State Government's views;

(b) whether clearance has been obtained for this proposal from MHA, MEA and the Ministry of Defence; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Progress of NHDPs

815. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of National Highway Development Projects I and II is in progress;

(b) if so, whether Government are drawing up more highway development projects such as NHDP Phases III and IV and accelerated North-east Development Project involving a total cost of Rs. 1,17,200/- crore;

(c) if so, the total highway projects that Government have agreed to consider;

(d) the progress so far made for projects I and II;

(e) to what extent IIIrd and IVth phase of NHDP would be undertaken; and

(f) what amount is earmarked for these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.